

Announcements

The American Association for Thoracic Surgery

Annual Meeting Notes

The Eighty-fifth Annual Meeting of The American Association for Thoracic Surgery took place at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, California, from April 9 through April 13, 2005, and attracted a record of almost 5400 registrants from around the world including almost 3000 professionals who registered for 5 days of scientific sessions, research forums, and postgraduate symposia. The Annual Meeting was recorded for Webcast presentation, which is available for viewing and can be accessed through the AATS site at www.aats.org.

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, the AATS opened the scientific portion of the program with its second "Grantsmanship Workshop," chaired by Pedro J. del Nido, MD. The 2-hour session attracted an enthusiastic crowd of young investigators. Immediately thereafter, co-chairs Mark J. Krasna, MD, and Robert C. Robbins, MD, presented the Seventh Annual "Developing the Academic Surgeon—A Symposium," during which over 290 participants discussed issues facing cardiothoracic surgeons interested in pursuing a career in academic surgery.

Sunday once again featured three specialty symposia co-sponsored by the AATS and The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), all of which were highlighted by distinguished faculty members. The General Thoracic Surgery Symposium, chaired by Shaf Keshavjee, MD, attracted approximately 350 registrants; the Adult Cardiac Surgery Symposium, chaired by Christopher M. Feindel, MD, drew an audience of almost 1300 surgeons; and the Congenital Heart Disease Symposium, chaired by Marc R. de Leval, MD, was attended by over 380. Also held on Sunday afternoon was the annual C. Walton Lillehei Residents' Forum sponsored by St Jude Medical, during which 8 residents made outstanding presentations of their research efforts. The AATS Cardiothoracic Residents Committee agreed that this year's award of \$5000 be given to Paul W. M. Fedak, MD, of Toronto, Canada, for his presentation, "Cell Transplantation Reserves Matrix Homeostasis: A Novel Paracrine Mechanism."

On Sunday evening, the AATS hosted the annual Graham Education and Research Foundation reception, honoring the 2005 Graham Education and Research Foundation awardees, as well as the 2005 award recipients from The Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education. The Graham Foundation awardees were this year's 53rd Traveling Fellow, Zsolt Tóth, MD, of Pecs, Hungary, and the Second Andrew G. Morrow Research Scholars, Marc de Perrot, MD, of the University of Toronto, Toronto Gen-

eral Hospital, and Frederick Y. Chen, MD, of Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Social events were very well attended, and the Association was most grateful to Local Arrangements Chair Dr Daniel J. Ulyot. As in past years, the social events schedule commenced on Sunday evening with a well-attended Welcoming Reception in the Exhibit Hall. Tuesday evening's reception was held at the Palace of the Legion of Honor. The Association extends its sincere thanks to Dr Ulyot for his superb work in developing an interesting and exciting social program.

Dr Tirone E. David presented his Presidential Address, "For Everything There Is a Season," on Monday, April 11, 2005. Dr David received high praise from his peers for his insightful reflections on the challenges facing medicine, particularly thoracic surgeons in defining their role in newly evolving therapies. This year's featured speakers included Elizabeth G. Nabel, MD, Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), who presented a talk on "Opportunities and Challenges in Biomedical Research: A Vision for the NHLBI; Basic Science Lecturer Harry Dietz, MD, whose presentation was titled "New Insights Into the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Marfan Syndrome"; and Honored Speaker Richard D. Weisel, MD, who presented a talk on "Cardiac Regeneration."

On Tuesday morning, April 12, the Research Forums on General Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery were conducted. Tuesday afternoon saw the Association's twenty-eighth annual Cardiothoracic Residents' Luncheon, which was once again well attended. Over 200 residents had the opportunity to enjoy a stimulating discussion with leaders in the cardiothoracic field. An innovation to this year's events was an Academic Leadership luncheon hosted by the leadership of the Association for new members. The luncheon was established to provide a forum to discuss openly the challenges and opportunities faced in everyday academic practices.

At its Annual Executive Session, the members of the Association elected the following officers for 2005-2006: Richard A. Jonas, MD, President; Bruce W. Lytle, MD, President-Elect; D. Craig Miller, MD, Vice President; Irving L. Kron, MD, Secretary; and G. Alexander Patterson, MD, Treasurer. Dr Tirone E. David succeeds Dr Joel D. Cooper to a 1-year term on the Council, Dr Charles D. Fraser, Jr, was named to fulfill Dr Miller's remaining 2-year term, and Dr Craig R. Smith was named to a 4-year term on the Council.

There was an amendment to the Association's by-laws, as follows:

Article VI, Section 3. The Program Committee shall consist of at least 14 members: the President, the President-Elect, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Editor, and at least 9 members-at-large, 3 each representing the areas of adult cardiac, pediatric cardiac, and general thoracic surgery. *The President or his/her designee shall serve as the Chair of this Committee.* Three of these members-at-large shall be appointed each year by the President for

a 3-year term. Additional Committee members shall be appointed for 1- or 2-year terms. The duties of this Committee shall be to arrange, in conformity with instructions from the Council, the scientific program for the annual meeting.

The membership agreed with the Council's recommendations to:

1. add a new Section Editor for Cardiopulmonary Support and Physiology to *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, approve the appointment of Dr Richard D. Weisel to that position, and authorize the creation of programs that will provide Category 1 continuing education credit for individuals who serve as reviewers of manuscripts for the journal and for readers of certain journal articles.
2. nominate Dr Andrew S. Wechsler for membership on the Peer Review Advisory Committee of the Center for Scientific Review and support the nomination of Dr D. Craig Miller to the Advisory Council of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
3. redesign the Association's Website, which was operational the first of May.
4. approve the publication of a bimonthly *Thoracic Surgery News* under the editorial direction of Dr Joel D. Cooper, who will be assisted by Drs Yolonda Colson, Bill Williams, Carlos Duran, and Bud Frazier.
5. establish a new annual Dwight C. McGoon Faculty Research Award to be presented to an individual selected by the Thoracic Surgery Residents Association. The first recipient was Dr William G. Williams from Toronto, Ontario.
6. establish a new research scholarship named in honor of Dr John W. Kirklin. The first John W. Kirklin Research Scholarship will be presented next year in Philadelphia.
7. establish a competitive traveling fellowship for North American residents and fellows in their second or third year through which they might spend a week at other institutions to broaden their educational experience.
8. approve the city of Toronto as the site of the 2010 annual meeting over the dates of April 24 to 28.
9. authorize a comprehensive workforce needs assessment for the specialty of cardiothoracic surgery to develop a forecast of future needs in the specialty. The Association has invited the STS to join in this effort.

The Eighty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Association will take place from April 29 through May 3, 2006, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The deadline for abstract submissions is October 10, 2005 and all abstract submissions must be electronic. As in past years, the abstract submitter

will be accessible through a link on the AATS Website. The Association has reaffirmed its policy that work submitted for consideration by the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting and/or publication in *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* shall NOT have been submitted previously for presentation and/or publication.

At next year's Annual Meeting, the following new active members who were formally elected at the April 11 Business Meeting will be inducted into membership in the Association:

Active Members

Emile Bacha, *Chicago, Ill*
 Michael K. Banbury, *Cleveland, Ohio*
 Yolonda L. Colson, *Boston, Mass*
 José Pedro Da Silva, *São Paulo, Brazil*
 Hiroshi Date, *Okayama, Japan*
 Henning Arthur Gaissert, *Boston, Mass*
 Leonard Nick Girardi, *New York, NY*
 Joseph H. Gorman III, *Philadelphia, Pa*
 Gregory M. Hirsch, *Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada*
 John Sotirios Ikonomidis, *Charleston, SC*
 Robert J. Korst, *New York, NY*
 Lorenzo A. Menicanti, *Milano, Italy*
 Scot H. Merrick, *San Francisco, Calif*
 Carmelo A. Milano, *Durham, NC*
 Yoshifumi Naka, *New York, NY*
 Eduardo Otero-Coto, *Valencia, Spain*
 Louis P. Perrault, *Montreal, Quebec, Canada*
 Gaetano Rocco, *Naples, Italy*
 Oz M. Shapira, *Boston, Mass*
 Joshua Robert Sonett, *New York, NY*
 Francis G. Spinale, *Charleston, SC*
 Koichi Tabayashi, *Sendai, Miyagi, Japan*
 David Paul Taggart, *Oxford, United Kingdom*
 Shinichi Takamoto, *Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan*
 George Tellides, *New Haven, Conn*
 Victor T. Tsang, *London, United Kingdom*
 Glen VanArsdell, *Toronto, Ontario Canada*
 Francis Charles Wells, *Cambridge, United Kingdom*
 Kenton J. Zehr, *Rochester, Minn*

Honorary Member

Richard D. Weisel, *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*
 Irving L. Kron, MD, *Secretary*

Announcement of 2006 Annual Meeting

The Eighty-sixth Annual Meeting of The American Association for Thoracic Surgery will be held April 29–May 3, 2006, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The meeting of the Association is open to all physicians. House Officers and Fellows will be admitted without payment of a registration fee upon presentation of a letter from their Chief of Service either during preregistration or at the time of registration. Nonmember physicians are required to pay a \$250 preregistration fee up to March 24, 2006. After that date a registration fee of \$300 will be required. Members, nonmember physicians, and invited speakers will have the privilege of discussing papers.

Requests for Preregistration Forms and Hotel Reservations

Information on the 2006 Annual Meeting, including registration, hotel accommodations, and the social program, will be available in December 2005. Requests should be forwarded directly to:

American Association for Thoracic Surgery
900 Cummings Center
Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915
978-927-8330; fax: 978-524-8890
e-mail: aats@prri.com

Registration and hotel information is available on our Web site at www.aats.org.

Call for Abstracts

Authors submitting abstracts for the 2006 Annual Meeting must use electronic submission. Abstracts submitted electronically for consideration for presentation at the 2006 meeting must have been received on or before **October 10, 2005**. Abstracts received after the deadline will not be considered by the Program Committee. The work must not have been presented or reported elsewhere.

Electronic Submission

Deadline for submission is **October 10, 2005**. Please submit your abstract via the World Wide Web. All abstract submissions must be in the structured format as required by *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. The structured abstract is to contain the following major headings: *Objective(s)*, *Methods*, *Results*, and *Conclusions*, and it should clearly reflect the content of the completed paper. No reference should be made on the abstract to the names or institutions of the authors.

Receipt of each abstract will be acknowledged by e-mail. Notification of the decision of the Program Committee will be distributed by the end of December 2005.

Essayists selected for the program are reminded that papers presented at the meeting are to be submitted for consideration for publication to *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* and must be submitted to the JTCVS via the Internet prior to the Annual Meeting. Papers that are selected by the AATS Program Committee may not be presented or published elsewhere prior to the Annual Meeting in 2006.

C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum

The C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2006. Made possible through an educational grant from St Jude Medical, the Forum will consist of the presentation of original work by residents in thoracic surgical training programs around the world. Abstracts submitted for the award should follow the guidelines of abstract submission for electronic submission noted above. The abstracts submitted for consideration for this Forum will be evaluated by the Program Committee and eight will be selected for presentation during the forum. Each of the selected authors will receive round-trip travel and accommodations for the duration of the AATS annual meeting. Additionally, one presentation will be selected by the Program Committee to receive the AATS C. Walton Lillehei Residents' Award, a \$5000 prize. Thoracic Surgery Program Directors are urged to have their residents participate in this Forum.

Abstract Deadline—Abstracts received after the deadline will not be considered

Electronic Submission Only: October 10, 2005

Applications for Membership

Applications for membership in the Association must have been received by the Membership Committee Chairman no later than November 2005. Applications received after that date will be deferred automatically for consideration until the 2007 meeting.

Applications for membership may be issued to sponsoring members of the Association and are also available to potential candidates who have identified member sponsors. Application forms are available from:

Chairman, Membership Committee
American Association for Thoracic Surgery
900 Cummings Center
Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915
978-927-8330; fax: 978-524-8890
e-mail: aats@prri.com

Irving L. Kron, MD, Secretary

The Western Thoracic Surgical Association

Announcement of 2006 Annual Meeting

The Thirty-second Annual Meeting of The Western Thoracic Surgical Association will be held June 21-24, 2006, at the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley, Idaho. The scientific sessions are open to all duly qualified physicians. Participation in other Association activities for members, invited guests, and program participants will require payment of a social registration fee.

Requests for Meeting Information

Meeting preregistration and hotel registration forms will be available after January 2006 from:

The Western Thoracic Surgical Association
900 Cummings Center
Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915
978-927-8330; fax: 978-524-8890
wtsa@prri.com

Material for the Program

Scientific papers will be considered from members and nonmembers. Member sponsorship is not necessary.

For the 2006 Annual Meeting, abstract submission will open on November 14, 2005. All abstracts must be submitted electronically via the WTSA Web site. Information and a link to the submission site will be posted on the Web site on November 14. A Call for Abstracts will be mailed out around that time. Abstracts of proposed papers must be submitted on or before January 10, 2006.

Successful essayists must send the complete manuscript directly to *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* and must not exceed 3000 words without illustrations. Electronic submissions are to be sent to: <http://jtcvs.editorialmanager.com> where complete instructions are also available. The essay length must be reduced appropriately when figures or tables are included.

Samson Resident Prize Essay

The Association offers a prize for the best manuscript on a topic of interest to thoracic surgeons in honor of Paul C. Samson, MD. Candidates for the prize must be in a training program in the United States or Canada. The one essayist whose abstract, manuscript, and presentation are judged most outstanding will receive a \$2000 cash award following the presentation of all papers in Sun Valley. The conditions for abstract submission, presentation, and publication as described above will apply. The authors of the abstracts chosen for the program will make up the finalists and will be notified by mid-February 2006 that they must submit *six completed manuscripts for review by the Prize Essay Committee*. The Prize Essay committee will make its selection following the presentation of all papers.

Application for Membership

Applications for membership in the Association must be received by the Membership Committee Chairman no later than March 1, 2006, to be considered at the following annual meeting. Applicants must be sponsored by three members of the Association who are not members of the Membership Committee. Application forms will be issued only to sponsoring members.

Address correspondence to:

Chairman, Membership Committee
The Western Thoracic Surgical Association
900 Cummings Center
Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915
978-927-8330; fax: 978-524-8890
wtsa@prri.com

The American Board of Thoracic Surgery

Notices

The part I (written) examination will be held on December 5, 2005. It is planned that this examination will be given at multiple sites throughout the United States using an electronic format. The closing date for registration is August 1 each year. Those wishing to be considered for examination must apply online at www.abts.org.

To be admissible for the Part II (oral) examination, a candidate must have successfully completed the Part I (written) examination.

A candidate applying for admission to the certifying examination must fulfill all the requirements of the Board in force at the time the application is received. Please address all communications to the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, 633 North St Clair Street, Suite 2320, Chicago, IL 60611 (telephone: 312-202-5900).

Requirements for Recertification/Maintenance of Certification

Diplomates of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery who plan to participate in the Recertification/Maintenance of Certification process must hold an active medical license and must hold clinical privileges in thoracic surgery. In addition, a valid certificate is an absolute requirement for entrance into the recertification/maintenance of certification process. If your certificate has expired, the only pathway for renewal of a certificate is to take and pass the Part I (written) and the Part II (oral) certifying examinations.

The American Board of Thoracic Surgery will no longer publish the names of individuals who have not recertified in the American Board of Medical Specialties directories. The Diplomate's name will be published upon successful completion of the recertification/maintenance of certification process.

The CME requirements include 70 Category I credits in either cardiothoracic surgery or general surgery earned during the 2 years prior to application. SESATS and SESAPS are the only self-instructional materials allowed for credit. Category II credits are not allowed. The Physicians Recognition Award for recertifying in general surgery is not allowed in fulfillment of the CME requirements. Interested individuals should refer to the *Booklet of Information* for a complete description of acceptable CME credits.

Diplomates should maintain a documented list of their major cases performed during the year prior to application for recertification. This practice review should consist of 1 year's consecutive major operative experiences. If more than 100 cases occur in 1 year, only 100 should be listed.

Candidates for recertification/maintenance of certification will be required to complete all sections of the SESATS self-assessment examination. It is not necessary for candidates to purchase SESATS individually because it will be sent to candidates after their application has been approved.

Diplomates may recertify the year their certificate expires, or if they wish to do so, they may recertify up to 2 years before it expires. However, the new certificate will be dated 10 years from the date of expiration of their original certificate or most recent recertification certificate. In other words, recertifying early does not alter the 10-year validation.

Recertification/maintenance of certification is also open to Diplomates with an unlimited certificate and will in no way affect the validity of their original certificate.

The deadline for submission of applications for the recertification/maintenance of certification process is May 10 each year. A brochure outlining the rules and requirements for recertification/maintenance of certification in thoracic surgery is available upon request from the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, 633 North St Clair Street, Suite 2320, Chicago, IL 60611; telephone: 312-202-5900; fax: 312-202-5960; E-mail: info@abts.org. The booklet is also published on the Web site: www.abts.org.

Targeted

The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery gives you two tables of contents.

The condensed table of contents tells you at a glance what topics and authors are presented each month. The expanded table of contents gives you a brief abstract of each article. You select only those articles of most interest to you for further reading.